

MANSFIELD AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
DRAFT Minutes of March 2, 2010 meeting
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B, 7:30 p.m.

1. Chairman Al Cyr, called the meeting to order at 7:35.

PRESENT: Al Cyr, Charlie Galgowski, Bill Palmer, Kathleen Paterson, Carol Stearns, Ed Wazer, Vicky Wetherell, Larry Lombard, Jennifer Kaufman (staff).

Also attending: Wes Bell, Chris Dittrich, Meredith Poehlitz, Raluca Mocanu, Jean Bell.

2. Welcome and introductions.

3. Minutes of the February 2, 2010, meeting were approved.

Old Business

4. Agriculture Committee Charge

The committee reviewed and amended the second draft of an updated committee charge. Recommendation that this amended draft be forwarded to the Committee on Committees for review along with request that the C on C consider adding language that there are no term limits. The updated charge will be forwarded to the Town Council for approval.

5. Mansfield Country brochure

The committee recommended updates for the brochure. Chris offered to help revise the layout and graphics. If there are enough copies, printing (vs. copying) may be more affordable. Example of inexpensive online service: VistaPrint. "Mansfield Grown" was suggested as a title.

6. Agriculture Zoning Regulations

The committee asked Jennifer to convey to Greg Padick and to PZC that this is still an important project, and that we are awaiting more information from other towns before making recommendations to PZC for updated regulations.

7. Presentation to the Town Council

The committee reviewed Kathleen's draft of a Power Point presentation and suggested revisions. Kathleen will email a second draft to use for review, then prepare a third draft for consideration at the April meeting.

New Business

8. AGvocate program

The committee discussed the goals of this program, which appear to support the development of an agriculture committee and identification of agricultural resources in a town. We decided that Mansfield has already done this, so we voted not to recommend Mansfield's application for this program.

9. Agricultural Leases

The committee reviewed annual reports by lessees of Town agricultural properties (2009 activities and proposed 2010 activities). Ed recommended review of the lease agreements. The committee agreed to review the leases and identify opportunities to offer leases, as appropriate, to all local farmers in time for the 2011 season.

10. Committee Membership

Because several residents are interested in serving on the committee, the committee voted to recommend to the Committee on Committees that committee membership be expanded to 14.

11. Walktober

Vicky suggested that the committee sponsor a Walktober farm tour to publicize agriculture in town. Ed and Raluca are considering offering a walk on their farm.

13. Website information

Kathleen suggested that the committee contribute to the update of the Town's website with additional information about the committee and agriculture in town.

14. April 6 meeting agenda items

Presentation to the Town Council, website opportunities, agriculture brochure and email notices to farmers list.

15. Meeting adjourned at 9:30.